

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Washington State Patrol Recovers Stolen Vehicles and Locates Methamphetamine Lab

On Thursday, December 18, 2003, six Washington State Patrol detectives from the Seattle Regional Auto Theft Team, three troopers from the Sedro Woolley area, and Skagit County Sheriff deputies conducted a search of property located at 22593 Grip Road in Sedro Woolley. During the search of the property, several stolen vehicles and a potential methamphetamine drug lab were discovered.

Detectives and troopers identified and recovered 10 stolen vehicles on the property. The sheriff's office had previously seized three stolen vehicles from the same location. Dennis Earl Nipges, age 46, from Sedro Woolley, was arrested on outstanding misdemeanor warrant charges as well as for suspicion of manufacturing methamphetamine, possession of stolen property, and possession of an explosive device.

Detectives from the Skagit County Drug Enforcement Unit assisted WSP SWAT Team members and the Skagit County Sheriff's Office with the processing and investigation of the drug lab that was discovered on the property. WSP detectives also identified video and audio surveillance on the shop located next to the drug lab. The Seattle Regional Auto Theft Team has identified several additional suspects and anticipates arrests in the near future connected with the stolen vehicles seized from the property.

For more information, please call **Lieutenant Jeff DeVere** at **(360) 753-1118**.

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